



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Walker's Job Agency Breaks the Law, Creates No Jobs**

*Wisconsin needs jobs, not excuses*

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement after the Joint Audit Committee's informational hearing regarding the recent audit of WEDC.

"Today's hearing confirmed what the Legislative Audit Bureau had already told us: WEDC is a financial, ethical, and legal disaster. Time after time, we heard CEO Reed Hall dodge questions and refuse to take any responsibility for WEDC's continual breaking of the law. We also heard empty rhetoric that it is WEDC's 'goal' to comply with the law from now on. These hollow promises ring false when looking at the repeated failures to act in a manner that is in line with state statute.

"As a small business owner, it is deeply concerning that we could not even discuss whether or not WEDC's economic development programs have worked, because they have not provided adequate information to the Legislative Audit Bureau. Instead, the audit committee and the taxpayers of Wisconsin had to listen to excuses from the agency that is supposed to be in charge of the number one issue facing our state: job creation.

"Reed Hall told the committee that he is proud of WEDC's record despite the fact that Wisconsin is currently 44<sup>th</sup> in the country in job creation and dead last in short term job growth. I can't say I'm surprised at these rankings based on the level of defiance and incompetence WEDC displayed at today's hearing and over the past two years. I call on Governor Walker and Reed Hall to start creating jobs, not more excuses."

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